

1. Communist Activity

(a) Teachers Arrested: Nine teachers of the Chinhae boys' high school were arrested on 14 Dec for organizing a cell of the South Korean Labor Party (SKLP) within the school. The teachers taught communism in class and held secret meetings of the pupils at which plans were made to take an active part in the overthrow of the Government of the Korean Republic. These teachers are in confinement awaiting trial. (C-3) The assistant principal and three teachers of the Yungsan primary school, SKLP members, were arrested on 20 Dec after admitting that they advocated the overthrow of the government by force and violence. Leftist teachers of Pusan primary schools have been instructing pupils to write compositions lauding the North Korean Government. These papers are sent to North Korean schools to be used as propaganda. (a)

(b) Guerrilla Raid: Guerrilla troops burned the provincial capital in Cheju, Cheju Island, on 3 Jan. Government records were destroyed by the fire. (b)

Comment: Guerrilla forces have been active on the island for several months, but reports indicate that they are being brought under control gradually by loyal force.

(c) Agent Objectives: A pattern of action to be followed by North Korean agents south of the 38th Parallel has been outlined by a confessed saboteur and intelligence operator who was captured by South Korean police in Chongdan on 6 Dec. He admitted that he had been instructed to (1) join guerrillas in Northern Kangwon Province and co-operate with the SKLP, (2) gather data on road, trail, and terrain conditions between Seoul and Chunchon, (3) bribe police officials and members of youth groups, (4) destroy telephone and telegraph lines, and (5) rejoin his organization in Chorwon, North Korea, upon the outbreak of large-scale guerrilla warfare in Kangwon Province. (c)

(d) North Korean Agents: Recent interrogation of a former member of the North Korean Constabulary revealed that 67 espionage agents of the North Korean Government are at Haeju, North Korea, awaiting assignments to enter South Korea. Most of the agents are to be assigned targets in North and South Cholla Provinces. Each agent will be allotted 5,000 yen for traveling expenses and given the name and address of a member of the SKLP in or near his assigned area in order that he may receive food, clothing, and shelter while on his mission. Each agent will be allotted approximately one week to complete his assigned task. Before the agent crosses the 38th Parallel into South Korea, his identification, citizenship, and rice ration cards will be taken away and held until his return. If the mission takes longer than one week, the agent will contact the local headquarters of the SKLP and obtain a South Korean rice ration card and citizenship papers.

Approximately 25 per cent of the espionage agents are students who attained a high academic rating in North Korean schools or who are members of the Democratic Youth Alliance or the North Korean Labor Party. The other 75 per cent are merchants or peddlers who wish to enter South Korea for the purpose of selling or buying goods. Very little positive intelligence training has been given to this latter group. All agents will be directed to determine (1) the strength, disposition and approximate number of U.S. troops, type of weapons used, and location of warehouses in South Korea; (2) the strength and disposition of the South Korean police and Constabulary, type of weapons used, and the feeling that exists between the two forces; (3) the names, addresses, and party affiliations of members of the National Assembly; and (4) popular opinion toward communism and the recent riots in South Korea. (F-6) (d)

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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS FAR EAST COMMAND
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE SECTION, GENERAL STAFF

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

INTELLIGENCE DATA
COVERING THE MILITARY
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL

FIELDS IN:

JAPAN
KOREA
PHILIPPINES
CHINA-MANCHURIA
SOUTHEAST ASIA
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NORTH KOREA

Withdrawal of Soviet tactical units from North Korea completed. Limited number of advisory personnel, under co-ordinating head, probably remain.

Communists plan invasion of South Korea in conjunction with widespread fifth column activities.

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SOUTH KOREA

North Koreans attempt to infiltrate South Korean Military Academy. Guerrilla activity causes 191 deaths. President RHEE may replace Prime Minister LEE.

KOREA

Military, Political, Economic, Social Situation,
Press Review, Civil Intelligence, Miscellaneous

Selected items for the Information of Commanders
and Staffs of the Far East Command

No. 2316

MILITARY SITUATION

1. Communist Activity:

(a) Trainee Infiltration: Trainees of the Pyongyang Political School in North Korea have been instructed to join the South Korean Constabulary and attempt to enter the Korean Military Academy, according to Constabulary officials in Taegu.

Source Comment: Constabulary units have conducted an intensive screening campaign to eliminate dissidents since the Yosu-Suncheon revolt in October (Intell. Summary 2241). However, the infiltration of South Korean security forces apparently is a continued objective of the Communists. (a)

(b) Casualties: Guerrilla activity in South Korea from 1 Jan to 8 Jan resulted in approximately 191 deaths. During this period, 100 guerrillas, three policemen, and three Constabularymen were killed when police and Constabulary forces clashed with raiders in three engagements in South Cholla Province. Twelve rebels and six policemen were killed in South Kyongsang Province when police engaged a rebel force of unrevealed size. In four attacks on villages and one attack on a Constabulary unit on Cheju Island, 20 raiders, 46 villagers, and one policeman were killed and 27 Constabularymen wounded.

POLITICAL REPORT

2. Current Developments:

(a) Control Relinquished: LEE Bum Suk, Prime Minister of the Korean Republic, reportedly has relinquished control of the Korean National Youth Corps (KNYC) to SHIN Suk Woo, a personal friend of President RHEE Syngman. SHIN was the Secretary of Finance of the old Korean Provisional Government in China from 1919 to 1926. He served a brief prison term in Korea in 1926 after he was apprehended by the Japanese police. He returned to China in 1938, acting as an intelligence adviser to CHIANG Kai-shek. Returning to Korea in May 47 at the request of President RHEE, SHIN has not taken an active part in governmental affairs, although he was considered for the post of Prime Minister and was offered the position of Minister Without Portfolio. SHIN is a brother-in-law of Prime Minister LEE.

Source Comment: The relinquishing of nominal control by LEE Bum Suk is not necessarily the release of real control. (a)

(b) Prime Minister to Be Replaced: Persistent rumors in South Korea indicate that Prime Minister LEE will be replaced probably about 15 Jan. SHIN Suk Woo reportedly has been offered LEE's position but has declined the appointment. Members of the National Assembly have indicated that they would accept the appointment of SHIN Ik Hi, chairman of the National Assembly and member of the Great Korean Nationalist Party; KIM Seung Soo, chairman of the Hankook Democratic Party; or LEE Chung Chun, head of the United Young Men's Party. Another possible choice is CHO So Ang, chairman of the recently organized Socialist Party. CHO might gain confirmation by the National Assembly, since approximately 40 Assemblymen reportedly are affiliated with the Socialist Party.

Source Comment: Prime Minister LEE's reluctance to relinquish control of his KNYC and merge it with the Great Korean Youth Corps, the youth group amalgamation, has caused strained relations between LEE and President RHEE for several weeks. Although LEE reportedly has relinquished control of his youth group, it is believed that RHEE has not forgotten nor forgiven LEE's actions. LEE's successor may have been decided upon among the Assemblymen during secret conferences. (a)

(c) Women Sponsor Petition: Three members of the Women's Union of the South Korean Labor Party in North Chungchong Province are collecting signatures on a petition objecting to recognition of the Government of the Korean Republic by the UN General Assembly. (a)